

obviously, there are lots of different opinions of what is good for society and good for children and good for families. LB 425 is a bill that attempts to reaffirm a parent's right to know what is going on in the life of their children. It's said that LB 425 will not solve all society's problems and I think that is accurate. We are not going to solve sexual abuse of minors. We are not going to solve all teen pregnancy, and we are not going to solve a whole host of other social problems. But what LB 425 will do will establish that parents have a right to know and be involved in what is going on in their children's lives. Senator Rasmussen has stated that abortion is a private decision and that the government should not be involved in this issue, but I would ask what right does government have to remove a parent and a parent's right to know what is going on in the life of their children, particularly their minor children. The comment is often made that 425 attempts to develop good communications in families where bad communications don't exist. I would disagree with that. I think LB 425 attempts to allow communication to occur. What it asks is that families sit down and talk about these things, and that activities and decisions are not made without the consent of at least one parent having some awareness of what is occurring in the lives of the children. Under the current law, young minor children are allowed to make decisions that I believe that they are probably ill-prepared to make, and they are able to do it without any parental notification. They are able to do it without talking to a mother or a father, and they are able to do it without proper consultation. As a father of four small children, I cannot imagine that the government has a right to decide that I have no right to know what is going on in the lives of my children. How can I help my children if I cannot know what is occurring in their lives, and how can I help them make better decisions in the future, if I have been removed from that process? So, therefore, I would oppose the amendment and would support LB 425. Thank you.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Horgan. The next speaker, Senator Crosby.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and members. Just a couple of comments, as I have sat here and listened, one of the things that Senator Nelson mentioned, and I assume she means that if a young woman was living here in Lincoln and she was underage, 19, which the bill, the original bill states, that a doctor would not write to her parents if they lived in Broken Bow and ask if she could have an abortion. If she is